

Town of Vernon
Hockanum River Linear Park Committee
Draft Copy
Minutes – March 23, 2012

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Present: Members: Joe King, Ann Letendre, George Arthur
Staff: Bruce Dinnie

The meeting was held at the Lottie Fisk Building, South St. and was called to order at 9:35 am by Ann Letendre, chairperson.

1. Approval of Minutes

Minutes of January 27, 2012 meeting were approved. Motion by Arthur, second by King.

2. Old Business

A. Hockanum River Trail Reports

- a. Refer to Arthur and Bellingham reports (attached) for details.

B. Review of needs – Hockanum River Parks and Parking Areas

- a. Refer to Arthur and Bellingham reports (attached). Litter issues were noted by George and Joe at Walgreen Corner sitting area, at Saxony Mill, and at Tankerhoosen Dam area. The roses at Saxony Park need attention. Bruce stated that he had hired Tracy Gorecki to do gardening.

C. Current Projects - Status

- a. Vernon Marsh Grant – (Ref. Task List prepared by G. Arthur, 5-16-11).
 - Task 1 – Postings need to be put in the kiosk. Maps will be obtained from Don Bellingham; Ann will also prepare some HRLP Committee info for the kiosk.
 - Task 2 – Trail sign 40 ft south of kiosk (completed)
 - Task 3 – Task 4: Kayak, canoe launch and small bridge – see above; IWC permit was approved. George has completed designs for the area.
 - Task 5 – Two vistas and benches, completed. George will submit labor bill; Ann will get material bill from Diane.
 - Task 6 – Replace stairway to river floodplain – completed. Need bills for labor and materials.
- Ellington HRLP has cleared the trail on the railbed to the Vernon line and will lay down chips. Joe and George will work the Vernon end to meet it.
- b. Collaboration with RDA – Hockanum Falls Lighting Project
 - i. Ann noted that the lighting for the falls has been done. The RDA Design Committee is trying to get a ribbon cutting ceremony set up.

D. Potential Projects and New Grant Applications

- a. Rec. Trails Grant - Lyman to Pleasant St to Courthouse One; submitted Sept 2011. Still awaiting contract. Key action is to get Giulietti family rights for trail on east side of river; also property owned by Dean; George will look up MPB number and send to Ann. Ann reported that Don Bellingham has agreed to assist with management of the grant.
- b. Dart Hill Park – playscape replacement: Bruce says it will cost \$75,000. He has no budget for that and will need a grant source.
- c. Consider extending Rockville Heritage Trail to Talcott Park area; Ann will ask Laurie Giannotti about funding possibilities.

E. River Protection: Actions, Public Education

- a. Ann noted that we have not made a presentation to the Town Council in about 10 years; that we should plan on doing that this year.
- b. Aquatic invasives – No new information

3. New Business

A. Dedication for New Section of Dart Hill Trail –

- a. A date will be set at the next meeting for sometime in June.
The meeting adjourned at 11:10 am, motion by George, second by Joe.

Respectfully submitted,

Ann Letendre, Chairperson

ARTHUR REPORT JAN 27 – MAR 23 2012

All trails are cleared of trees from the storms. There are still some high hanging branches on the rail trails and there are still some brush and firewood piles.

Joe and I have worked 152 hours on the rail trails since the Jan 27 report.

P&R maintainers have also been clearing roads, parks and trails since the storm.

Joe and I cleared the seating vistas at WPCA again. WPCA personnel had cleared the tree lines along the fields thus improving the HRLP trail, however, the brush that had been pushed over the bank was blocking the view.

We also repaired a loose step on the WPCA trail.

I joined an AMC hike on March 8th at DHS and we were the first to walk on the newly stone-dusted walking trail.

Joe and I inspected the trail clearing that the Ellington crew did on the rail line north of the Hockanum and Rt 74. They did an excellent job and even cleared the Vernon section to the river.

VERNON GREENWAYS VOLUNTEERS REPORT

January 28, 2012 to March 23, 2012

Stone dust laid by in Dart Hill Park - March 5,6, & 7

Public Works applied stone dust.

Tunnel Road Parking Area Clean-up - Thursday, March 8

Removed branches and winter debris from the planting and plaque area established last year.

Phoenix Street Planting Area – Wednesday, March 14

Removed leaves, wood and invasives on hillside by the planting area.

Web Page Updated for 2012 – Friday, March 16

2011 information archived and replaced with 2012 information

Guest Speaker designated for our Spring Kick-off Meeting – Monday, April 30 at 7 PM

Nick Bellantoni has agreed to be the guest speaker for our annual Spring Kick-off meeting at the Teen Center.